

HUGHES COUNTY HISTORY



Dedicated to the Hardy Pioneers
Who Wrought Homes Here
and
Contributed to the Development of this Territory

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Persevering friends who dwelt here

HUGHES COUNTY HISTORY

Compiled and Arranged in the
Office of County- Superintendent of Schools

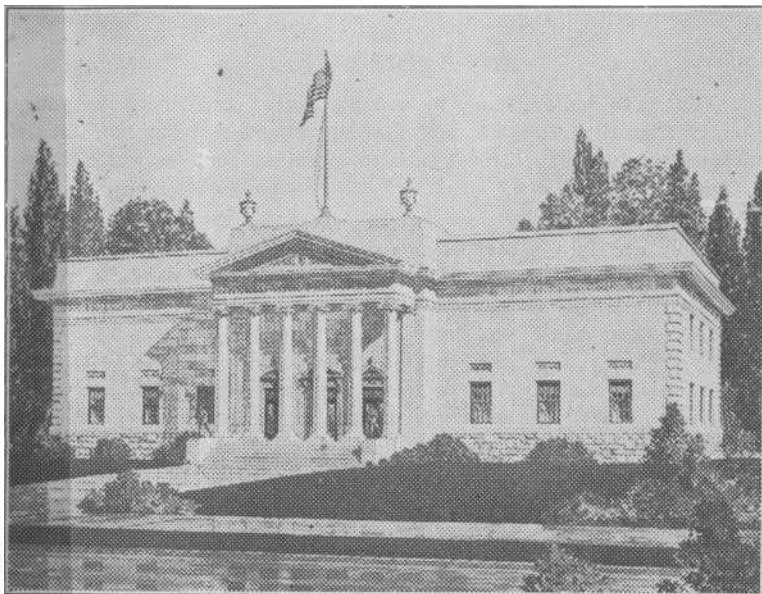
Hughes County, So. Dak.

Published in Spring of 1937

Articles contributed by pupils, teachers, pioneers and historical authorities. Appropriate newspaper clippings are acknowledged.

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Bert L. Hall, Pierre, South Dakota



Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial Building, Pierre
Completed, 1932

Museum and State Historical Office, Lawrence K. Fox, Secretary



Barrett Lowe, City Superintendent, Wessington Springs

An Appreciation

You have honored me by asking that I contribute to your County Historical Project; and I assure you that I am more than pleased to do what little I can to promote such a worth-while activity.

When boys and girls set out in search for the romance of the past they are intellectual voyageurs in the good ship Adventure. Perhaps no history equals in interest that of our immediate vicinity. Events close to us are always comparatively of more importance than those far away. The knowledge that historical events took place on the very spots so familiar to us lends enchantment to the story. But when we ourselves go in search of history, and have the pleasure of putting it into writing for the first time, a double interest results.

Original research in local history offers us opportunities heretofore reserved for the professional historian. In opening these opportunities you render great service to yourselves as well as to your county and state; and in making the project possible your County Superintendent contributes admirably to the cause of education. Both you and he are to be congratulated. I wish such activities could be carried out in every county in the state.

-Barrett Lowe, Pres. Junior Historical Society.

History Projects

History Projects, of this character are most commendable and should have the cooperation and support of every one. They assemble for use and analysis a volume of historical data not available by another method. As educational processes they are unsurpassed. The young citizens who have engaged in them are receiving a training of inestimable value and out of them there is certain to emerge a battalion of thinkers, writers, philosophers, historians and statesmen whose names will be held in pride and veneration by the generations to follow.

There is something especially fascinating about the history of one's own neighborhood. There is scarcely a yard of it that has not been impressed with some historical circumstance that is worthy of preservation. I know of no other plan for gathering and conserving these important data comparable to turning the student body of the county into enthusiastic search for them. I am sure the result will justify the methods employed. We of Hughes County are proud of your achievements.

-Doane Robinson, Secretary Emeritus, State Historical Society.

A Just Tribute

A record of the history of Hughes County can well include its growth and value of its educational institutions, and a portrayal of the high standard of its schools would be incomplete if reference was made to the teachers thereof.

The majority of their students are oftentimes dependent upon them for an incentive to attain scholarly success, while others absorb graces of character and moral worth as exemplified in the daily life of their beloved teacher. Faithful teachers! Theirs is more than the solving of mathematical problems or explanation of fixed rules. They have large groups whose individual dispositions and ideals are as varied as all the colors of the flower kingdom.... Here comes the question of how best to make a personal contact with a youthful mind that will bring desired results, and how and when to praise or punish. Great is the honor due to that teacher who can discipline and at the same time command the attention of the student.

The worth of such instructors cannot be gauged in terms of dollars and cents. Unlike those in other occupations, their years are limited as to length of service in their chosen profession, due to present-day decrees, and their months of work each year is curtailed, hence lessened income.

Society places in their hands its greatest possessions-children whose habits, minds and character are in their formative period-then too often it is loth to pay a just recompense.

That Hughes County has recognized these facts and acted wisely is proven by the high character of the products which its schools have given to the world.

-Chas. H. Anderson.



Utilizing the swings at Hillview, De Grey district, 1930

A Dream Realized

At the meeting of the Hughes County Rural School Assn. on September 19, 1934, held in the basement of the Congregational church, the compiling and ultimate publication of a HUGHES COUNTY HISTORY was designated one of the objectives of the organization. The officers at that time were: Carol Gunnison, president; Katherine Bruce, vice president; Stella Stephenson, secretary; Zetta Laughlin, treasurer. The executive committee consisted of Harriet Woodard, Creta Grandle, Delila Bane, Carol Gunnison and Bert L. Hall.

Progress was slow at first; people weren't much interested when no definite assurance of a finished volume could be given. It required time and persistent effort to make the contacts that should be made. Repeated follow-ups were necessary in many instances to get desired results. All parts of the county should be covered yet the financial element limited the scope of the undertaking.

Co. Supt. Carlos E. Westover had made a beginning in this field before leaving office in 1933 by mimeographing and assembling in loose leaf form the best articles submitted by pupils in a Young Citizen League essay contest on the topic "My County." In fact, the Pierre "Days of '81" committee had previously stimulated research in pioneer lore by offering prizes to pupils for true local frontier stories.

After the September meeting referred to above, the schools in each school district were to secure a brief history of the early organization of such; also about first schools, teachers, patrons, etc. The early day settlers still alive were to be solicited for reminiscences. Persons especially versed in local history were to be invited to assist in the compilation.

So during the intervening months which have now grown into years, gradually and quietly the desired material has been accumulated and arranged and made ready for the printer. We hoped a good crop might bring the opportune time for such a financial venture.

The laborous task of compilation is drawing near completion as copy is turned over to the printer and proof is being checked for correction. The experience has been a pleasant one for the writers, making new acquaintances with the "builders" of our county, and becoming more intimate with those already known. We have enjoyed and been enriched in spirit by the undertaking.

An orthodox historian may be disappointed with our product. We sense that there are imperfections both in fact and in structure with information gleaned from innumerable sources. Would you be one of those to discount the willingness of pupil effort in attempting to help in this enterprise?

May you peruse this book with the attitude of one wishing for quiet adventure and reverent reverie, having as companions those rugged home-seeking men and women of a half century and longer ago? What if 50 or 55 years have dimmed memory so that there is a momentary slip of fact? Go back in anecdote with gray haired sires and dames for the sheer enjoyment of living again in that generation whose actors are fast passing from life's stage.

I cherish the vision of a mother, resting after work is done, sharing with somebody's grandmother, the aspirations nourished in arranging a claim shack home; a tired father with pipe and easy chair, experiencing the thrill of building a new business in a new town, in a new Empire, without the attendant hardships. Or I see a freckled boy in a rural school vitalizing the "Pioneer Unit" by becoming engrossed with the struggles of our forefathers.

We acknowledge assistance from the talented pen of Mary Giddings, Ft. Pierre artist, and to various parties for the loan of cuts.

In closing we wish to express appreciation for the many hands and minds and hearts which made this volume possible. The co-operation of the business and professional firms has been of inestimable help in the realization of this dream-this volume.

March 28, 1937.

-Amy B. and Bert L. Hall.

Geological History

Hughes County is largely covered with glacial drift underlaid by several hundred feet of the Pierre shale formation and the chalk of the Cretaceous age. The soil, being largely glacial drift, contains large amounts of sand and many boulders, some of huge proportions. The border of one of the last thrusts of the great glacier is the eastern bank of the Missouri River which is the western boundary of Hughes County.

The great mass of ice and snow that formed the body of the glacier carried with them, or pushed before them, great masses of boulders from bedrock where it was formed far up in Canada.

In the moraine which runs along the bank of the Missouri in Hughes County, stone cutters find a good source of many kinds of fine granite useful for tombstones and building materials. The stones of the County Courthouse in Pierre were cut from the boulder found in this great moraine.

As is true in all glacial drift countries; many lake beds remain to show the visit of the great ice sheet. In Hughes County, practically all of these have been drained or the water has evaporated. However, in recent years impounding dams have been built across the outlets and artificial lakes are being formed in some of the old beds.

As was mentioned above, the soil is underlaid with what is known as the Pierre shale. This shale underlies most of the state in the formation somewhat like a saddle, with the pommel being headed in the Black Hills and the cantle being near Sioux Falls. Underlying this is found the Dakota sandstone beneath which is the granite layer. The sandstone is the water-bearing strata and varies from a thousand feet below the surface in the western side of the county, to sixteen hundred feet in the highest portion of the northwestern part of the county. Wells dug in the vicinity of Pierre and Harrold on the two borders of the county, range in depth from 1,160 feet to 1,537 feet; the later having penetrated a few feet into the granite. The greatest pressure from these wells is reported to be 210 pounds to the square inch, which is capable of raising the water to 1,900 feet above sea level. The water yields considerable gas, which has been utilized as the source of the city supply in Pierre.

In the Cretaceous strata are found many fossil crustaceans. These are remains of ancient forms of fish, and show that while this layer of the earth's surface was being formed, it was covered with water. There are only a very few places where lower strata rock protruded through and above this strata in South Dakota. The main one of these places is the Black Hills. The layers above this sandstone and chalk contain the fossil of the vertebras, and the members of the animal kingdom between the vertebras and the earlier forms. Along the banks of rivers in the cuts, they make through the rock, are often found the bones or fossil remains of some of these forms.

In the Memorial Building in Pierre there may be found the bones of a turtle, that was found on the bend of the Missouri above Pierre, which in life was almost as big as a small horse. Numerous other

types have been found from time to time by different expeditions from our own state, or college and museum collectors from the East who are making geological collections of the great western plains.

The soil in Hughes County is rich as a result of the disintegration of the bed rock of shale, mixed with the rich materials deposited by the glacier, the wind-blown materials, and decayed vegetable matter, found in the numerous water holes and lake beds of the post-glacial period.

One place for studying the different formations is in the deep railroad and highway cuts, particularly those near the Missouri River where the cuts are often very deep.

If one cares to distinguish between the soils before the glacier covered them and afterwards, one has but to look at the great hills of gumbo on the western bank of the Missouri, and the sandy boulder-strewn hills on the eastern side near Pierre.

No geological study has been made of the Pierre or Hughes County quadrangle, but a very interesting topographical map can be secured from the Department of Geological Survey at Washington, D. C. for \$.06, to show the contour of the land and other interesting features, in which one who is making a study of the county would be interested..

A. G. Wright, Principal, Pierre H. S.

Brief Description and History of Hughes County

There are twenty-one and a half congressional townships consisting of 774 sq. mi., 495,360 acres. About seven townships are on the former Winnebago reservation in the southeastern part. The Missouri washes the entire southern border including 75 miles of the windings. The islands are: Echo, Lost, L. A. Framboise, Wood, Cedar, Dorian, Okobojo and Farm. There are two creeks of consequence, Medicine Knoll and Chapelle.

The county was named for Alexander Hughes of Elk Point; created in 1873 and readjusted in 1879 and was organized November 20, 1880, by Gov. Ordway. The county seat was located at Pierre. The Governor appointed three commissioners: George L. Ordway, Wm. R. Ledwich and Joseph Reed. The railroad reached Pierre about that time. Exploration dates to earliest Missouri river navigation. Several French men married Indian women and settled within the county as early as 1830. Chief settlement and trade was at Ft. Pierre on the west shore.

Three Rousseaus settled at the mouth of Medicine creek 1860. In 1855-6 Gen. Harvey established three military camps on the east side of the river for wood and pasturage. In 1863 Gen. Sully built Ft. Sully, five miles below Pierre. The first American settlement of prominence was made in 1873 when Thos. L. Riggs established an Indian Mission at Oahe which continues.

In 1889 Pierre became the state capitol. Government Indian School, U. S. Land Office, Dist. Court and Federal Court are located here.

Company A, First South Dakota, recruited at Pierre for the Phillipine war in 1904.

-Doane Robinson's Hist. of South Dakota and Alfred Theodore Andreas' Atlas (1884).

A Few Fragments of History

Hughes county lies in Central South Dakota. It begins where the tenth guide meridian intersects the Missouri River; thence, north to the third standard parallel-its northern boundary. The Missouri River lies to the West. Its area is 485,760 acres.

The Chicago & North Western reached Pierre in 1880. There was a ferry at Pierre and much freight was hauled to the Black Hills. Freight and mail were hauled by wagon to Gettysburg from Blunt until 1887 when the railroad was completed between Gettysburg and Faulkton. In 1910, it was completed between Blunt and Gettysburg.-Irma Howard

Hughes County was organized in 1880. The first commissioners were: Mayor Ledwich, Joseph Reed, S. S. Laird. The court house was built in 1882. Bell was lynched in 1885. Judge Shanon held court in 1881. The first school building is now owned by Mrs. Louis Kehr. The great Pierre flood was in 1881. There are now six people living in Pierre who were living here in 1880: Mrs. Carrie Farnum, S. D. Blair, Burt Dickey, Palo Bianchi, Hank Hausman, and M. P. Martin.

-M. P. Martin, 1935.

Who Teaches In An Older Schoolhouse?

According to records found in an old record book Mentor Standard school was built sometime between August 2, 1884 and July 3, 1885. Philip Pickering was hired to build the schoolhouse for \$575. J. K. Hamilton was clerk of the board; Samuel Strayer, director. Miss Maggie C. King was employed to teach a term of 3 months beginning Sept. 14, 1885 at \$30. per month.

-Orva Roda Olson.

State Superintendents

Territorial and State Superintendents of the Department
of Public Instruction

James S. Foster (ex-officio)	1864-1868
T. McKendrick Stuart	1869
James S. Foster	1869-1870
J. W. Turner	1870-1871
E. W. Miller	1872-1874
J. J. McIntire	1875-1876
W. E. Caton	1877-1878

W. H. H. Beadle	1879-1885
A. Sheridan Jones	1885-1887
Eugene A. Dye	1887-1889
Leonard A. Rose	1889
Gilbert L. Piukham	1889-1891
Cortez Salmon	1891-1895
Frank Crane	1895-1899
E. E. Collins	1899-1903
Geo. W. Nash	1903-1906
M. M. Ramer	1906-1907
H. A. Ustrud	1907-1911
C. G. Lawrence	1911-1915
Chas. H. Lugg	1915-1918
Fred L. Shaw	1918-1925
C. G. St. John	1925-1929
E. C. Giffen	1929-1933
I. D. Weeks	1933-1935
J. F. Hines	1935-

County Superintendents

The following people have held office as County Superintendent in the Hughes County Schools since the first school district was established and organized in 1880.

1880-1882	William B. Williams
(Resigned July 25, 1882).	
1882-1883....	T. L. Riggs (Completed term)
1883-1887	J. C. Collister
1887-1891	Crosby G. Davis
1891-1893	Margaret C. king
1593-1897	Lizzie D. Laughlin
1897-1901	Emily F. White
1901-1905	Maude Russell Carter
1905-1909	Ida M. Hatch
1909-1913	W. E. Calhoun
1913-1917	Margaret Linden
1917-1921	Daisy y Solberg
1921-1925	Grace E. Matteson
1925-1929	Bert L. Hall
1929-1933	Carlas Westover
1933-1937	Bert L. Hall
1937-	C. E. Westover

It is interesting to note that each of our County Superintendents were held over for two terms in office.

-Harriet Woodard.

The Early Schools of Hughes County

A little over fifty-three years ago, December 23, 1880, when the Dakotas were known as the Dakota Territory, Wm. B. Williams accepted an appointment as the first superintendent of the public schools of Hughes County. After taking his oath of office he proceeded to attend to his official duties, one of which was to form the entire county into one school district, which was called School District Number One. Then in his own words, "I issued and caused to be posted up in five conspicuous places in the county, a notice, declaring the county as District One, and calling a meeting of the said School District for the purpose of electing district officers and attending to such other business as might lawfully come before it, to be held on January the 10th, 1881, at 8:00 o'clock P. M. at the Waiting Room of the Passenger Depot at Pierre." Upon that date the officers were duly elected and the business of the meeting attended to.

October 10, 1881 the county treasurer turned over to C. W. Richardson, the treasurer of the school district, the sum of \$820, which amount had been allotted to the school fund.

The first teacher's examination was held Nov. 3, 1881, with three candidates seeking certificates, namely: L. E. Penny, Louise Cavalier and E. L. Bundy.

Miss Louise Cavalier taught the one school then open in the district, at Pierre. The first school house was a small frame building, the material for which had been hauled to Pierre by teams, by Louis Kehr, a young business man who was opening up a general merchandise store at the corner of Dakota Ave., and Coteau Street. He had freighted in the material for his new store building and from the left over material the first school house in Hughes County was built. The school house was built just north of what is known now as the Pioneer Store, on Coteau Street. Today this first school house stands east of the store building on Dakota Avenue, a quaint reminder of those first school days enjoyed by the children of those first pioneers who did much to build up our community. Among those listed as the pupils of Miss Cavalier's school are: Carrie Herbison, Will Cessane and a sister, Maude Shirliff, Myrtle High, Max Kehr, and Glenn Store.

A year later L. E. Penny conducted the school in a very acceptable manner according to the notations of County Supt. Williams.

April 12, 1882 Supt. Williams hired a rig and visited the territory north and east of Pierre, and helped to organize two new school districts to be known as School Districts Number Two and Three. These districts correspond with the districts now known as Peoria and Mentor. Peoria became district number three with a total of 27 children of school age, while Mentor became District Number Two with 21 school children to accommodate. These districts were carefully bounded by ribbons of red ink upon a map of the county, and kept on record by Supt. Williams.

The following officers were elected for these districts: Peoria: Yellow Hawk, Director; H. M. Riggs, Clerk; Arthur Ward, Treasurer. For Mentor District: J. M. Kleinfelter, Director; F. C. Bullis, Clerk; and Pete Alleman, Treasurer.

The fourth school district was formed after some delay, as muddy roads prevented a successful first meeting, but on January 20, 1882, the Rousseau District was lawfully organized with the following officers installed: Desirie Channie, Director; Wm. O'Donnell, Clerk, and M. C. Rousseau, Treasurer, with 26 children eligible for school enrollment. Miss Tina Heron seems to have been the first teacher in that district.

July 25, 1882, Supt. Williams resigned. According to his records he had received a total of \$21.75 for his work as County Supt. This included incidental expense for stamps, and the hiring of rigs for travel to the places of meeting for the organization of the four districts that had been formed during his term.

T. L. Riggs completed the term for Mr. Williams.

It was not until April 9, 1883 that the school districts named were renumbered and given their present boundary lines.

SCHOOL DISTRICT HISTORY

Arnott School

My family came to Raber Twp., March, 1907. At that time no school was established in this community; however, there were two families living here with school children, Margaret Kalish, who attended Snake Butte school; Paul and Hoyt Wiley, who were attending school in some shack in the Giddings locality.

The first school established in the Arnott District began the fall of 1907 in an old house belonging to Lon Hanks. Miss Nellie Monroe, from Howard was our first teacher. We attended school only six months per year-all in one stretch. The old house was cold but we had a good attendance. Billy Roach, and the Mathews, Wiley, Swift, Kalish, Daniels, and Whaley children. William, Gladys and I attended school part of the year, as the winters were long and time hung heavy on our hands those first two years.

J. P. Laughlin, Junkman and Billy Congdon were our school officers at that time. The fall of 1908 we commenced school in a claim shack owned by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Milligan which stood just across the road from our present Arnott school site.

The land is now owned by Mr. Frank Harbaugh, of Pierre. Eva Dix was homesteading the land our school was located on and the 80 acres just west was our teacher's.

We had a large enrollment and were very crowded. This sounds laughable, but is true; when the teacher wished to send a class to the blackboard, those sitting near the board had to be excused to make

room. It was very difficult for the teacher to keep order under such crowded conditions.

During the late fall or winter the contractor started work on the school building where it now stands. The rough lumber in the Arnott school came from P. J. Laughlin's timber on the river. By the latter part of March our Arnott school house was ready for use. I remember so well that nice fresh paint smell. I can't just remember, but I believe I was in the 4th grade; it might have been the 5th. We still have the same heating system, but some changes have been made in the school house as the walls are plastered now and were tin sheeted when constructed. I can't say exactly as to teachers' salaries then, but I think \$35 per month. My mother finished a term of school in the Black Lake district that year or the year before and it seems to me that was the salary.

Arnott school has been in continuous session since 1907. There has been an attempt a time or two to move the school house but in each instance it failed and the structure remains exactly where it was established. Mrs. Kathryn Pool was not one of the earliest teachers of the Arnott school, yet I consider her a pioneer and also Miss Laura Blake who is living in Pierre.

My father served on the school board for a number of years. I can't remember exactly the year, and those records have been destroyed. The school received its name from the Arnott post office.

-Grace Steiner.

Valley School District

The first record of the Springdale School is in 1892 when the school board was composed of Richard Brown as clerk; H. H. Brekke, as chairman and William H. Hillmer as treasurer. William H. Hillmer was the father of the present chairman of the school board, J. W. Hillmer.

The teacher at that time was Miss Mabel Dean, who received a salary of \$30 a month.

The school at that time was located on the now graveled road which is a mile west of the present location of the school. Later it was moved to about a quarter of a mile from where it now stands. Five years ago it was moved to its present location.

-Springdale School.

Pleasant Valley Township

Mrs. Addie B. Jackson was the first school teacher of Pleasant Valley schools that we have records of in the superintendent's office. The term began March 28, 1887 and ended June 17, 1887.

Records are shown of a School Board in 1883 which consists of:

J. H. Vanhorn-President, Blunt.

J. C. Tansey-Clerk, Blunt.

Patrick Kelly-Treasurer, Blunt.

The census for 1884 shows that there were 17 school children in Pleasant Valley township at that time by actual enumeration.

Some of the family names found in this census were: Nafe, Brewster, Jackson, Dunn, Wheeler, Vanhorn, Brown and Mann.

Pleasant Valley

Jim Ryan, who homesteaded here in the '80s, was one of the earliest residents of this district. Beth Eden school was previously called the Ryan school. At that time it was situated a mile and a half north of the present location. Beth Eden School is now on the quarter section which was originally the Dunn homestead. Miss Barkdoll gave the name of Beth Eden to this school soon after it was moved to the present location in 1923.

The earliest settlers of the district have now either retired or have passed on from this world. Most of the residents of this district at the present time have located here since 1920, with the exception of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Pool. Both Mr. and Mrs. Pool were teachers in this vicinity as young people, and since their marriage have made it their home. Mr. and Mrs. Russell have been in the country since 1912 and in this district for many years.

A new school has taken the place of the old Sunnyview school building. This old school house is now the farm home on the Otto Burki place.

The tornado in June 1924, took the lone ash tree which stood near the corner of Beth Eden schoolyard.

-Minnoise Hoyt, Beth Eden, teacher.

Webster District

On the 9th of April 1883 the Co. Commissioners divided Hughes County into 21 School Districts, of which the Congressional township, No. 111, range 74, was known as Webster School District No. S.

The first school election was held on May 13, 1884. The following officers were elected:

Clerk-A. J. Webster

Treasurer-Albert Jordan

Chairman-G. W. Giddings

The first school census was taken in 1884. The census listed 7 girls and 11 boys, with the following family names appearing: Thomas McNulty, G. W. Giddings, Albert Jordan, J. J. Kelley, Robert Miller, Mrs. L. E. Freres, Charles Schuster and A. J. Webster.

The first school term began under the supervision of Co. Supt. Crosby G. Davis and teacher, P. E. Chase. The school term began Aug. 8, 1887 and ended Feb. 29, 1888. A month elapsed and school again started on Apr. 23, ending for the year on June 22, 1888.

The following pupils were enrolled in the first school. Grade number is shown following name.

McNulty, Maggie -5
McNulty, Mary-4
McNulty, Nellie-3
Jordan, Earnest-3
McNulty, James-2

Nothdurft, Edward-2
Nothdurft, Earnest-2
Weatherwax, Frankie-1
Nothdurft, Tony-1

Westminster Township

Westminster was organized on the 9th day of April, 1889. Congressional Township No. 112, range 74. The number of it was No. 7. It was later organized in with the territory now taken in by the Harrold District.

Bretton School District

In compliance with section No. 24 of the school code approved March 8, 1833, the county commissioners divided the county into twenty-one school townships. No. 6 was named Bretton district and consisted of Congressional Township No. 112, Range 75. Three schools were organized in the Bretton District, namely East School in the S. W. corner of the E. 1/2 of Sec. 11; the North school or present Little Daisy in the S. E. corner of the W 1/2 of Sec. 4: and the South school or present N. R. G. in the N. W. corner of the W 1/2 of section 17.

The North school was moved from Sec. 4 to the S. E. corner of the E 1/2 of Sec. 5, Sept. 20, 1913, and the So. school was moved from Sec. 17 to the S. E. corner of the SE1/4 of Sec. 18, Aug. 7, 1924. It was rebuilt and the lighting facilities changed to conform with modern ideas. (The North school still stands as built.) The east end of Bretton consolidated with Harrold, June, 1920, thus leaving only two schools in Bretton. In 1934 the South school was closed, there being only 2 pupils. These two went to Little Daisy.

The first school term of the early nineties began in Nov. and lasted until March; the second began in Apr. and was out in June.

The average number of days taught was around 50 and the average attendance 14. The pupils' ages ranged from 5 to 20. The teacher's salary was \$30.00 per mo. A man teacher was hired during the winter term and a woman for the spring.

Names commonly found on the reports of the 90's were: Seeley, Clopper, Brekke, Lewis J. Borger, A. Enstad, Markus, Fred Foote, Plin Foote, Bert Foote, Elmer Knight, Blacks, Philips, Garrets, John Lottie and Carey.

Books found in the first libraries were-Swinton Readers, Swinton Spellers, Robinson and Fish Arithmetic, Harney Grammars, Swinton's Geography and Pathfinder Physiology and Hygiene.

-Little Daisy.

Dry Run District

(This material was taken from records filed in the office of the County Superintendent.)

In an early "Clerk's Record Book" we find the first account of Dry Run District, which states: "School township number 12 shall consist of congressional townships number 111 range 78; and fractional congressional townships number 110 range 78.

The oldest term reports of teachers were for the year 1886-1887. Found were four term reports for schools number 2, 3, 4, 5. The County Superintendent at this time was Mr. Crosby G. Davis of Blunt, South Dakota.

School number 2 began November 1, 1886. The term report was dated March 25, 1887 evidently the close of school. This school was taught by Kate Cronan who received a salary of \$30 a month. There were seventeen pupils in this school.

School number 3 began November 15, 1886 and ended March 18, 1887. The teacher J. M. Porter received \$35 a month. Five pupils attended this school. Comments on the school were "no dictionary and no globe."

School number 4, taught by Nellie Donahue began November 22, 1886. The term report was dated April 8, 1887. The teacher received \$35 a month. Ten pupils attended this school. Comments on the school were "no dictionary, or text books but has globe, maps, charts, etc."

School number 5 began November 3, 1886 and ended March 25, 1887. William J. B. Sherwood taught the school. School was in session one hundred days. Comments report "a coal and storm cellar; also charts and globe but no maps or dictionary." Seven pupils attended this school.

In a note and also a letter sent the County Superintendent J. C. Collister by John Rand, Director acting as Clerk of Dry Run township, on July 20, 1884 a report was made that there were fifty-six children over seven years and under twenty years of age and unmarried in Dry Run township.

The teacher's term reports and the school census for 1884 written by enumerator, Mrs. Jessie Hardy, listed such familiar names as these: "Mark, Jessie, Walter and Ralph Burton; Mike, Peter, Tracy, and Katie Biwer; Thomas, Laura, Joseph, Willie and Leon Chaussee; Leonard and Olive Scovel; Joseph, Minnie and Mary Bruiette; Frank Babcock; Wallace Alexander, Frank and Justin Calhoun; Mable Taylor.

Account written by Norma D. Larsen.

History of Logan District

In looking over Teachers' Reports a report was found for Logan School District of Dakota Territory dated Sept. 20th, 1886. It had been sent to J. C. Collister, presumably the County Superintendent at Harrold. The teacher of school No. 2 was Florence M. Henderson. Jessie

Hunting, Lettie Veal, Della Veal, Mary Darling, Este Veal and May Veal were the first pupils of whom we have any record.

A report of the Clerk of Logan School Township, B. A. Tozier, in 1887 shows the school census to include 18 children. A notation gives the census of 1883 as 25. In a Supt's report of 1888 there is a rating of Mrs. Henderson's teaching as follows: Order of Gov't-100%, Methods of Instruction-90%, Gradation of School-90%, Thoroughness of Work--85%, Neatness of Work-80%, Condition of Room-80%.

On July 9, 1889 the minutes of the school board meeting revealed the hiring of three teachers at an approximate monthly salary of \$33.33 for six months. The school tax levied was 10 mills. The district's income for the year amounted to \$685.07. Natural philosophy was a subject listed but no one was enrolled.

The first school apportionment that we have any record of was made in 1892 to the school treasurer, J. P. Youngberg and it amounted to \$35.71.

The school board minutes that were recorded for March 31, 1903 were the first detailed report to which we had access. The school board consisted of Wm. Hopkins, Thomas Whalen and J. P. Youngberg. At this meeting it was recommended to allow professional Interest Certificate teachers \$1 per month more than non-professional teachers. The wages in 1907 were raised to \$40 for a 6 month divided term: 3 mos. in fall and 3 in spring.

In 1909 by a petition the location of the north school was moved from SW 1/4 Sec. 20-112-77 to S. E. corner of Sec. 2-112-77. It was moved again in 1911.

In 1910 a seven month term of school was adopted and in 1912 the term was lengthened another month.

Medicine Knoll or which is better known as Medicine Butte is a high butte near Blunt in Logan Township. It is a land mark on the route from the Minnesota River to the Missouri. Fremont celebrated July 4, 1839 shooting rockets from the butte. There is a Sioux memorial in the form of a serpent to commemorate the bravery of a young man who once was keeping his fast upon it when he observed Ree enemies approaching. He was praying in such a loud voice that he attracted the attention of his relatives camped on a creek below who rushed to his rescue. The Pierre Kiwanis Club has placed a bronze marker on the corner three miles west of Blunt on Highway 14 to direct interested visitors to the old Indian land mark.

-Evelyn McCall.

De Grey District

The history of Hughes County dates back many years as the majority of us already know, but unless we have made a special study of sections of this territory or by listening to tales of our grandparents or earlier settlers we do not recognize the significance of names and markings familiar to us.

Two names which we still use and will continue to use are: De *Grey* and Chapelle. De Grey is the name of a Post Office and Township in the central and southern part of the county and bordering on the Missouri River. Charles De Grey (1823-1877) is the person for whom these two places are named. Mr. De Grey was not born in South Dakota, but lived for many years at the mouth of Chapelle Creek. We find by asking old residents that his house would be out in the river now, because the river has washed away so much of the land.

Chapelle, a creek in the central and eastern portion of the county and emptying into the Missouri River near De Grey, was named after David Chapelle, who settled at the mouth of the creek about 1832.

At the mouth of the creek many interesting things have happened. We find that Lewis and Clark stopped at the mouth of the creek and spent the night. Another interesting feature that we find near is an old Ree Indian Fort. By talking to Tom White and Amos Shield, two of our older Indians, we find that this Ree camp was the permanent camp of the Rees, or it was their winter headquarters. When Mr. Hank Jones first moved there, he said that it was nearly impossible to go across the grounds with a team and wagon, but now we find that by careful driving one can go across it with a car, for the trenches and dugouts for the tepees are only four and five feet deep.

Around the outside of the fort is the trench, and near the creek on the east can be seen their runway. On the other side of the creek was their burying grounds, where many interesting things have been found.

Another interesting thing which few people notice are the old Government Trails. Many of these can still be seen, and from the looks of the many beaten paths a great many hours were spent on these roads, and no telling all the hardships that have been encountered not only in a day, but for a great many years, by both whites and Indians.

An ordinary red colored rock that was in Section 14 of De Grey Township caused a great deal of comment, because of the fact than an imprint of a human hand and two crow feet could be seen on the top. Recently this rock has been removed from its natural surroundings, thus spoiling part of its historical value to people of the county and also South Dakota. No one seems to know what has become of this rock which has probably been in that same place for hundreds of years.

-Wildwood School.

(This rock about the size of a small barrel was brought to Pierre about 1935 and placed in front of the Memorial building where historical archives are kept. It is believed that Seward Leeper of Blunt had charge of this removal, who acted in the belief that the ancient relic was being placed where many more people could observe it.-Supt. Hall.)

Crocus Hill History

Just north of the Will Sparks homestead a school started in the fall of 1904 in a tar paper claim shack. Mrs. Sparks was the first teacher

and she named it Crocus Hill. She took examination in Supt. Maud R. Carter's house in Pierre.

Six pupils attended: Frank, Ethel, Edna Schaap; Billy and Emma Congdon; Agnes Merickel. Edna died near the end of the term from injury on a swing board at home. Sarah "Sadie" Kelley, now McGaffee, taught the next year. Then the present building was built on the site where it now stands a mile east of the first building. Charlie Hilgenbacher, Pete Laughlin, and Bill Congdon was the School board. Hazel Johnson taught the first term in the new building. The school got its name from the multitude of Crocus flowers that bloomed in the spring.-
-Elva E. Sparks.

Hillside School of Medicine Valley

The history of this school started in 1929. Formerly this was a part of the Blunt Independent School District. Then some of the families living outside of Blunt decided it would be cheaper and more convenient to have their own district. So the southwest corner of the Blunt district, reorganized into a district of nine sections, naming it the Medicine Valley district after the Medicine Creek which runs through it.

The first School Board Members were: Mrs. Dave Runge, George Sias, and Wilbur Hogue.

The first school which was held for two years was in a house on the Runge Ranch, only two children were enrolled.

It was decided to have a school in the center of the district. They bought a small building to which they built an addition and placed it where it now stands on NW-28-112-76. It has been named the "Hillside School," by the pupils.-Bernette Hertel.

Paradise Valley School District

The first school board of Paradise Valley School District of which we have record was in 1922. The following people made it up:

M. B. Gregg, Chairman

Arne Hagemo, Clerk

Bernard Gregg, Treasurer

The first year the school was taught by Margaret Matthews, the first half, and Ida G. Jones the second half.

There were six pupils enrolled at the beginning of the year, who came from the families of St. John, Gregg, and Middletent.

Buckeye School Township

The first school teacher that we have records of in the County Supt. office for Buckeye township was Kezia Voorus. Her school opened in April 11, 1887, and closed in July 1, 1887. We have records of a school board as far back as 1883-4. The members were:

William Cole-President
F. H. Steigmeyer-Clerk
Thomas Neeley-Treasurer

The earliest school census we have for Buckeye township dates back to 1884. The total number of pupils was 30. Among the family names recorded we find: Neeley, Cole, London, Crabbs, Herron, Keller, Young, Millen, and Horn.

Joe Creek School District

The first school board of which we have any record in the office of the Supt. for Joe Creek School District was in 1922. The following made up the board:

Bert L. Hall-Joe Creek-Chairman
W. C. Rutherford-Joe Creek-Clerk
Fred Schenegge-De Grey-Treasurer

Amy B. Hall was the first teacher in the Joe Creek District. There were 8 pupils in attendance at this school and they came from the following families: Barry, Rutherford, and Dougherty.

Brief History Of Rousseau School District

Rousseau was first settled by French people who came here in 1880. There were two families who lived close together, one was M. C. Rousseau and the other a brother, Romeo Rousseau. M. C. Rousseau married a French Canadian woman and R. Rousseau married an Indian squaw. Rousseau station was named for them.

The M. C. Rousseau family had a trading post. The Indians brought furs to trade. They also cut trees down and traded them to the ferry boats that went up and down the Missouri River, these boats took them to the saw mills. There were many Indian camps near. Rousseau also had a post-office to handle mail for the nearby settlers. There was also a store where articles were kept, such as tobacco, foods, and clothing.

-Ethel Robley.

Harrold Schools by An Early Teacher

In 1883 the place where Harrold now stands there was nothing, but prairie. Houses or a town could not be seen for miles around. It was not to remain so very long; land seekers and immigrants came crowding out into the West, bringing with them lumber enough to build a temporary shack in which to store their household goods.

Landseekers and immigrants were willing to pay what we consider a big price to sleep on the floor of a section house.

More lumber was soon shipped in and business buildings and shacks rapidly sprang into sight. The Sheldon was a part of the old hotel which was torn down in 1931. Most all the entertainment which the town afforded for its residents at that time was held in the Sheldon.